

Message Text

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43

ACTION PM-03

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FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE 2144

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAMA 0611

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : MARR, BA, XO

SUBJECT : DIEGO GARCIA

REFERENCE : STATE 123690

PREOCCUPIED WITH QUESTION OF U.S. NAVY PRESENCE IN BAHRAIN, GOB TO OUR KNOWLEDGE HAS NEVER FOCUSED ON SPECIFIC QUESTION OF DIEGO GARCIA EITHER PUBLICLY OR PRIVATELY. GOB FOREIGN MINISTER HAS INDICATED TO AMBASSADOR BAHRAIN'S GENERAL SUPPORT FOR ZONE OF PEACE CONCEPT BUT AT SAME TIME, BY VIRTUE OF ITS CAREFUL AND RELUCTANT PUBLIC STATEMENTS ON U.S. NAVY PRESENCE IN GULF, GOB IMPLICITLY ENDORSES CONCEPT OF U.S. NAVY'S MAINTAINING FACILITIES IN INDIAN OCEAN AREA. PRIVATELY GOB LEADERS WOULD TEND TO SUPPORT U.S. DIEGO GARCIA PLANS, PROBABLY VIEWING DIEGO FACILITIES AS EVENTUAL ALTERNATIVE TO CONTINUED U.S. NAVY PRESENCE IN BAHRAIN. AT SAME TIME, DEPARTMENT SHOULD NOTE THAT GOB'S PRIVATE REACTION TO INDICATIONS U.S. MILITARY MIGHT USE MASIRAH IN CONNECTION WITH DIEGO GARCIA EXPANSION WAS SHARPLY NEGATIVE.

TWINAM

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